

The Dreamer

Exclusive news for the St. Joseph's Indian School DreamMakers



April 2022

From Cooking to Cleaning, Children Learn It All

Learning skills for adulthood is a big part of home life at St. Joseph's.

In each of the 20 campus homes at St. Joseph's Indian School, there are two houseparents on duty at any given time supervising up to 12 children.

Now, cleaning up after 12 kids in one home is no easy feat. Cooking for 12 kids in one home also has its challenges. Having 12 children in one home means there is a likelihood of 12 pairs of shoes by the front door, 12 dinner plates to clean, and 12 loads of laundry to wash, fold and put away.

However, it also means there are 12 sets of hands to assist with cleaning, cooking and helping around the house.

At St. Joseph's, it is our mission to make sure children are cared for as long as we're blessed to have them. However, if they leave and cannot stand on their own two feet, it would mean a part of the care puzzle was missing.

So, students also learn what it means to care for themselves and others as part of the Residential Living Program. Depending on their age and ability, houseparents teach children how to complete a skill properly — make their beds, do laundry or vacuum. Students are expected to help around the house, as would be typical for any family home around the country. Some

days, they may be in charge of sweeping. The next day, they could be in charge of helping cook or set the table for dinner. While one might expect children to drag their feet at the idea of doing chores — or “charges” as we call them at St. Joseph's — there are children who enjoy it.

“We go on a two-week cycle of the charges so the boys can learn before we rotate. They go through the bathrooms, and the mopping, sweeping and vacuuming. They really get it down so they're quite efficient at it,” said Rick, a houseparent in a 1st-3rd grade boys' home.

Cooking is something houseparents often find generates the most enthusiasm among the children. Tia, a houseparent in one of the high school homes, gets help freely from some of the girls when it comes to cooking.

“Our junior girl, Jade, has been working with me in the kitchen this year. She wants to learn to make her favorite foods before she moves to the Senior Home,” said Tia. “She loves roasted asparagus. Last shift she helped make Million Dollar Pasta and garlic bread.”

Some of the other girls like helping out for other reasons ...

“The other girls are mostly just into taste-testing so far,” laughed Tia.

Bette, a houseparent in a 1st-3rd grade girls' home, (over, please)



home, said the young girls are just as excited for cooking and tasting items fresh from the oven.

“The girls have made pancakes, scrambled eggs, cupcakes and pizza,” said Bette. “There was a lot of mess everywhere from the pizza dough, but it was worth it.”

Worth it, indeed. The priceless memories made in the homes far outweigh any messes. Besides, the little hands will be there to help clean up!

Philámayaye — *thank you* — for your support to care for the future independent young adults who got their start at St. Joseph’s Indian School.

GILES HOME RECIPE: *Best-Ever Taco Soup*

Ingredients:
2 lbs ground beef
1 large sweet onion
2 bell peppers (any color)
2 packets of Sazón
1 salsa mix (for canning)
1 can (14.5 oz.) diced tomatoes
1 can (4 oz.) green chilies
1 vegetable soup mix
1 can (16 oz.) pinto beans
1 can (16 oz.) black beans
1 Tbsp chicken base
1 cup orzo pasta
2 cups frozen sweet corn
1 can (10.5 oz) golden mushroom soup
onion seasoning
southwest seasoning
salt

Toppings:
sour cream
cheddar cheese
corn chips

Directions: In a large pot, brown ground beef with diced onions and bell peppers. Once the beef is browned, add tomatoes, green chilies, mushroom soup, canned beans (rinsed), chicken base, onion and southwest seasonings, Sazón, vegetable soup mix and 8 cups of water. Bring to a boil and simmer for 20 minutes. Then, add the orzo pasta, cook for 7 minutes and turn the heat off. Add the frozen corn and stir.

Serve topped with cheddar cheese, sour cream and corn chips for added crunch.

Hungry? Cook along with St. Joseph’s Giles Home by making their favorite recipe!
For this and more St. Joseph’s home recipes, go to stjo.org/recipes.

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month

It’s an awareness month that we wish didn’t need to occur. But the fact is, too many children across the country are abused every year.

To stand alongside victims of abuse, Child Services staff at St. Joseph’s Indian School wore blue shirts with the phrase “Strengthening Families and Communities.” Below this were pictures of children playing, with the Lakota words **Táku wanláká čhán, tákeya yo/ye** — *See Something, Say Something*.

Along with the more popular reasons for choosing St. Josephs — including a good education, homelessness, cultural opportunities and more — needing a safe environment can be a reason parents and guardians choose St. Joseph’s.

According to St. Joseph’s Student Profile report for 2019-20, before coming to St. Joseph’s 11% of students were victims of abuse and 40% of students witnessed domestic violence.

Although the month is a good reminder for the public to stay diligent in the fight to end child abuse, St. Joseph’s Indian School provides programming all year to keep students safe.

Some of the programs are:

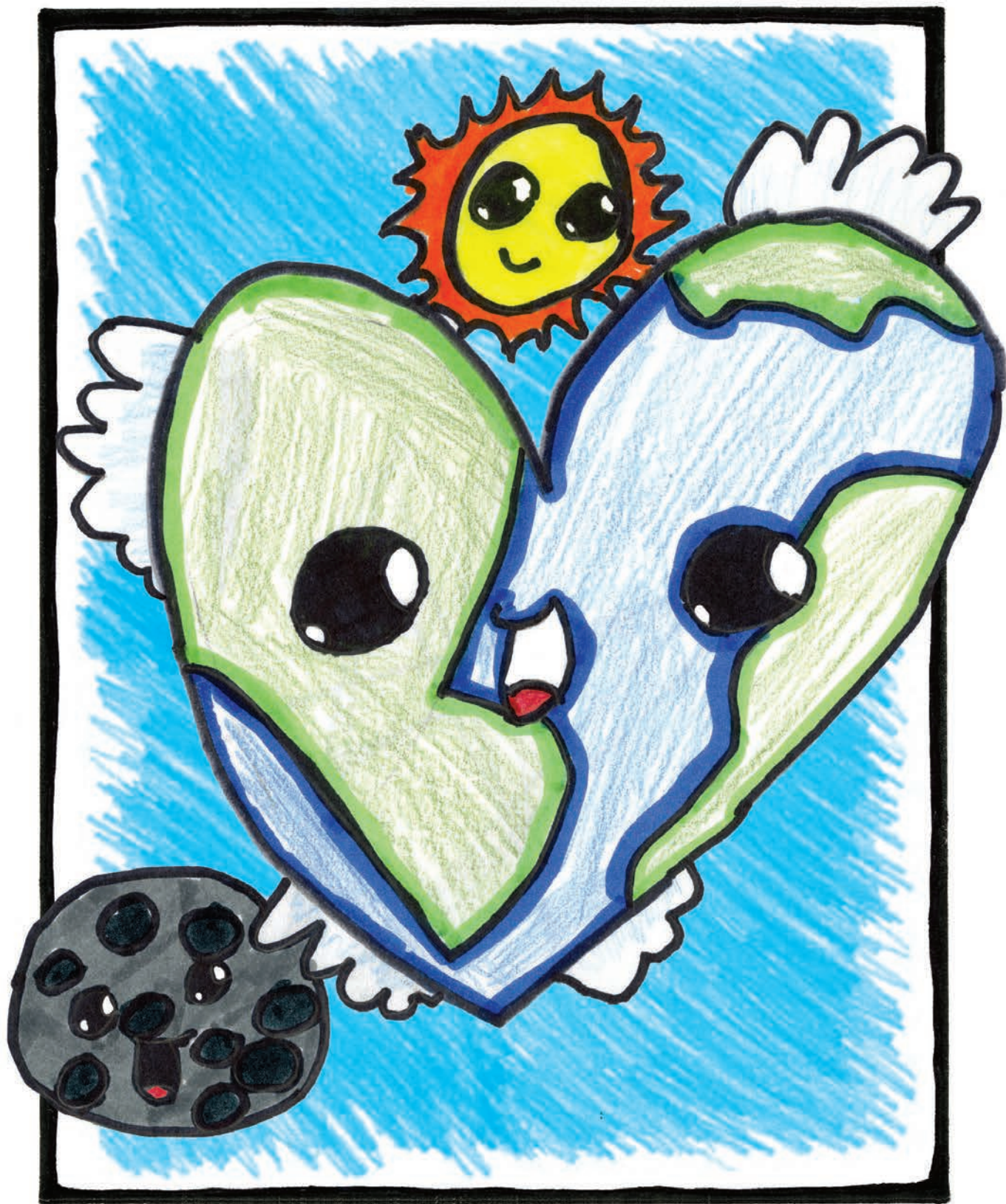
- Whole Person curriculum for 1st-8th grades
- A child protection unit in the homes for 1st-5th grades
- Healthy Lifestyle learning for 6th graders
- Family Service Counselor sessions
- Staff courses that address how to recognize and respond to child abuse and neglect

The future remains hopeful, as we do our part at St. Joseph’s. We partner with families and other organizations in devotion to the safety of children. We’re blessed to do this great work thanks to generous people — like you — around the world.



St. Joseph's Indian School
We serve and teach, we receive and learn.
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H V Kyler

Dear Friend,

Thank you for all of the kind things you do for us here at St. Joseph's Indian School. In School my favorite subjects are Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and Science. My favorite Specials are Music, Art, P.E., N.A.S., and Library. I will join the basketball, softball, and gymnastic teams.

What I want to be when I grow up is a famous singer because I like it and I am very good at it. I'd like to live in New York City or Los Angeles.

I hope you enjoyed the letter. Again, thank you for all you do for us.

Your Friend,

Zuela